

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K: RGRICH
APPROVED BY EA; RHOLBROOKE
S/S: FWISNER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227325

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: KIM DONG-JO'S RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS

REF; SEOUL 7826

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FOR PAST TWO DAYS FROM JUSTICE (MICHEL) AND THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF (NIELDS) TO GET AN ADVANCE INDICATION OF WHAT KIM DONG-JO IS GOING TO SAY PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF HIS WRITTEN RESPONSES. IF, DESPITE ALL OF OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THE KOREAN LEADERSHIP DOES NOT MISUNDERSTAND WHAT IS REQUIRED AND THE STAKES, KIM NEVERTHELESS DOES NOT NAME NEW NAMES OF CONGRESSIONAL OR SENATORIAL RECIPIENTS OF MONEY, THEN AS WE HAVE SAID ALL ALONG WE AND THE KOREANS ARE BETTER NOT TO HAVE ENGAGED IN THIS PROCESS. THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE VERY SERIOUS.

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2. IF THE RESPONSE IS UNSATISFACTORY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT BEFORE IT IS DELIVERED, AND THE MESSAGE OF ITS UNSATISFACTORINESS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE ROKG. AN UNSATISFACTORY RESPONSE WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECTIFY AT THE CLARIFICATION STAGE, AND WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE CREDIBILITY OF ANYTHING THAT FOLLOWED ONCE KIM THRU THE ROKG IS OFFICIALLY ON RECORD TO THE CONTRARY.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE ALL TRIED TO ENCOURAGE AN ADVANCE INDICATION OF ENOUGH SUBSTANCE FROM KIM TO VALIDATE WHAT WOULD FOLLOW, BUT THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED.

4. IN VIEW OF THE REQUEST NOW FROM NIELDS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR RENEWED EFFORT TO GET SOME INDICATION OF THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE BEFORE IT IS OFFICIALLY CONVEYED. SINCE WE UNDERSTAND THAT KIM IS WRITING IN KOREAN AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAY TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH, THERE WILL BE A STAGE AT WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER COULD PLAUSIBLY INFORM YOU OF THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE RESPONSE BEFORE IT IS DELIVERED. CHRISTOPHER

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